i) Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest land for non forestry purposes.

ii) Cooperation of local people is being solicited through Joint Forest Management Committees to manage and protect the forests.

iii) Number of Schemes are being implemented to protect and manage the existing forests.

iv) Management of forest area under the control of State Forest Department is done according to the prescriptions of the Working Plans.

Danger to environment due to garbage of vam organics

†1374. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware of the fact that discharge being released from the vam organics (Jubiliant Chemicals) Gajraula, Uttar Pradesh is destroying the standing crops of the farmers and damaging the trees in the surrounding areas and thereby causing a serious danger to the environment; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) A complaint relating to effect of gaseous emissions from M/s Vam Organics (now known as M/s Jubiliant Organics), Gajraula, Uttar Pradesh, on mango orchard and crops was received. M/s Vam organics have now installed scrubbers in its sulphuric acid plant for control of sulphur dioxide emissions.

Loss due to forest fire

1375. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of report that 'Half of forest area fire-prone' which appeared in the media recenly;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.